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Raihiralan

The word *raihiralan*, made up of *raihira* (as in the Raihira Estate) + the suffix *lan* (= "like" or "of the kind"), can be interpreted to mean "noble", "knightly" or "courteous", and by extension "high".

As used in Westrenne Aristasian, it can often be translated as the equivalent of the Tellurian word "gentlemanly", and, with the weakening of the Estate system, is often applied to anyone "of high Estate", meaning people from Haiela and Raihira families, as well as those from the richer Magdala families which have a tradition of sending their children to the better schools, such as Selastine, which were originally reserved for the daughters of the Raihira Estate.

As with the concept of a "lady" or "gentleman" in later Telluria, it is not precisely clear where raihralan begins and ends, but Westrennes are quite clear in a general sense about what they mean by the word.

Raihiralan Education

Refers to the education given by schools such as Selastine and by the Aristasian Universities. It is akin to what in Telluria used to be called a "liberal education": that is a non-vocational education designed to produce not a person qualified to *do* anything, but to be an educated person: a raihiralan lady.

Universities in Aristasia are entirely dedicated to Raihiralan and Haiela education. Vocational (Magdalan) education is carried out by the guild-schools and the apprenticeship system.

Raihiralan Language

The term Raihiralan is, somewhat confusingly, used to refer to two very different dialects.

Raihiralan Westrenne is the form of the Westrenne language (the lingua franca of Western Aristasia) spoken by

people of raihiralan birth and by educated people in general. In Telluria, Received English is often treated as the precise equivalent of Raihiralan Westrenne.

Raihiralan refers to various dialects spoken in the hither-East and especially in parts of Novaria and Western Amazonia. The origin of the term is in the expression *Raihiralan Caeren* (or *-Cairen*), meaning the high or noble speech of the original Caeren Empire. Even as many later Empires in the East were direct descendents of the First Raihir, so they claimed that their speech, which consisted of later dialects and languages, were Raihiralan Caeren, meaning that they were virtually so by merit of their descent.

In later times, and further west - modern Novaria and West "Amazonia" - where the Imperial Sceptre was held to have passed to Abolraihir (literally apple-empire: the empire of the Golden Apples of the Western Paradise - i.e. the Westrenne Empire) - the term for the West-Estrenne dialects spoken there was modified to *Raihiralan ditesh* - "noble (implying ancient) speech".

Later the term was modified simply to *Raihiralan*, as if that were a noun - leaving open the question as to whether the implied noun was actually *Caeren* or *ditesh*.

In Aristasia-in-Telluria, the term Raihiralan is used to describe a word of older Aristasian descent; so when asked what is the derivation of a term like thamë, *Haiela*, or *raihiralan* itself, one will explain that it is Raihiralan.

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